

U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

U.S. Senate Committee on Budget
624 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

January 31, 2017

RE: Nomination of Rep. Mick Mulvaney as OMB Director

Dear Senator;

We, the undersigned consumer, small business, labor, good government, financial protection, community, health, environmental, civil rights and public interest groups, oppose the nomination of Representative John Michael ‘Mick’ Mulvaney for the position of White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director and urge you to vote against his confirmation.

Both Rep. Mulvaney’s public statements and his voting record show that he is unfit and unqualified to run OMB. We cannot put our federal agencies and budget in the hands of someone who is willing to ‘play chicken’ with our debt ceiling, would like to put Medicare and Social Security on the chopping block, and calls into question the need for government funded research.

This nomination gives the reins of government to someone who doesn’t value its continual and effective operation and calls government shutdowns ‘good policy’. Rep. Mulvaney was a proud leader of the 2011 government shutdown. He has repeatedly voted against raising the debt ceiling, and does not believe that failing to raise the debt limit would cause the government to default.

One example of the problems inherent in Rep. Mulvaney’s nomination is the implicit threat to the scientific integrity of our public health and research institutions. He believes global warming is “based on questionable science” and has even questioned the scientific consensus that the Zika virus causes the birth defect microcephaly. He has gone one step further and questions the necessity of government funded research.

The stability of our government institutions, and the health and welfare of the millions of Americans who depend on vital programs such as Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security would be put at great risk. Rep. Mulvaney has called Social Security a ‘Ponzi scheme’, advocates for the privatization of Medicare and promised to raise the retirement age for Medicare and Social Security programs significantly, taking away a service that has been paid for and earned through many decades of hard work.

OMB has a significant role in the regulatory process and agency priorities. As OMB Director, Rep. Mulvaney could strip agencies of their enforcement budgets thus eliminating their ability to protect public health and safety rules necessitated by Congressional legislation such as the Clean Air Act and the Fair Labor Standards Act. He could even prioritize the interests of regulated industry entities over

hard working Americans who would benefit from the public protections. Rep. Mulvaney has already expressed an interest in deregulating banks and doesn't like "that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau exists".

We need someone in the position of Director of OMB who believes in the vital role of government and federal institutions. Rep. Mulvaney does not. Therefore, we urge you to reject the nomination of Rep. Mulvaney to the position of White House Office of Management and Budget Director.

Thank you,

AFL-CIO

AFSCME

Alaska Wilderness League

Alliance for Citizenship

American Family Voices

American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO

American Sustainable Business Council

Americans for Financial Reform

Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization

Campaign for America's Future

Center for Biological Diversity

Center for Community Change Action

Center for Science and Democracy at the Union of Concerned Scientists

Center for Science in the Public Interest

Clean Water Action

Coalition on Human Needs

Communications Workers of America

Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety

Daily Kos

Defenders of Wildlife

Earthjustice

Economic Policy Institute Policy Center

Equal Pay Today

Equal Rights Advocates

Fair World Project

Family Values @ Work

Fight for \$15

Food & Water Watch

Free Press Action Fund

Friends of the Earth

George Washington University Milken School of Public Health Professorial Lecturer

Homeowners Against Deficient Dwellings

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

Institute for Science and Human Values

Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility

Interfaith Worker Justice

International Chemical Workers Union Council (ICWUC)
Jobs With Justice
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
League of Conservation Voters
Main Street Alliance
Media Mobilizing Project
NAACP
National Association of Consumer Advocates
National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Council of Jewish Women
National Domestic Workers Alliance
National Education Association
National Employment Law Project
National Employment Lawyers Association
National Fair Housing Alliance
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund
National Partnership for Women & Families
Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC)
PAI
People Demanding Action
People's Action
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Population Connection Action Fund
Project Vote
Public Citizen
Public Knowledge
Restaurant Opportunities Centers United
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
Secular Human Rights Worldwide
SEIU
Sierra Club
Sugar Law Center for Economic & Social Justice
The National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
The Wilderness Society
United Auto Workers (UAW)
United Food and Commercial Workers International (UFCW)
United Steelworkers
Voices for Progress
We Are Family
Workplace Fairness